

Voters to decide on school tax increase

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

The Oberlin School Board has decided to hold a special election for a local option budget increase on Tuesday, March 2, after a petition to take the increase to an election was verified on Tuesday.

The board asked for an increase from 18.11 to 25 percent at a meeting on Monday, Jan. 12. After that decision, Phil Lahman of Oberlin started a petition to take the increase to an election.

With the help of Shayla Williby and Gary Baldwin, the petition gathered 134 verified signatures. County Clerk Marilyn Horn said

there were more signatures but some of the people had moved and not re-registered. Others put their work address rather than their home address.

The last day to register for the special election will be Monday, she said. The clerk's office will stay open until 9 p.m. that night.

While the petition was being circulated, Superintendent Kelly Glodt has spent the last two weeks talking with teachers and staff members who may or may not have a job next year and those who have options to think about.

Mr. Glodt said he and the principals from the high school and grade school had talked with each of the teachers involved. Despite that, he said, the names of the staff members are still confidential until the board takes a vote.

Mr. Glodt said he feels good that each of those who might not have a job knows what is going on. He said the administrators will help those staff members find new jobs.

Personally, he said, he thinks the board will wait to know about the local option budget increase before taking a vote on the staff. Those staff members to whom they

talked won't be cut officially until the board takes a vote, he said, and that probably won't happen before the March board meeting.

Mr. Glodt said throughout the process, he has told the teachers as honestly as possible what he sees happening even if the local option budget passes.

"In the realm of the whole bad process," said Mr. Glodt, "in my opinion, the worst is just now over. There comes a time that we have to start moving forward."

He said with the changes and reduction in force, there will be some changes in job descriptions next year for those who remain,

but those may not be known until the beginning of the year. Mr. Glodt said they will have to see how everything plays out. Some staffers may decide to resign or retire, he said, but they have a few months to make up their minds.

The board has to wait at least 21 days before having an election so the notice can be published.

Although there is a primary election in August, said Mr. Glodt, the board wants to get the election over as soon as possible. With deadlines and dates coming up, the (See VOTERS on Page 10A)

Education taxes will be higher regardless of vote

Property taxes in the Oberlin School District will go up 2.11 mills next year even if a measure to increase the local option budget doesn't pass, although the district will get \$30,000 less in local taxes because the general fund will decrease.

The money raised through the local option budget is based on a percentage of the general fund. Currently it is \$3,231,400 multiplied by 18.11 percent. If the local option budget measure passes, then it will be the general fund multiplied by 25 percent. That should bring in \$180,633.

If the election measure passes and the local option budget goes to 25 percent, it will increase taxes just under 7 mills, county officials say. That would mean there will be a total increase of around 9 1/2 mills, said Superintendent Kelly Glodt.

Below are figures for what it costs for a typical quarter-section of dry land, grass land, irrigated land, a home valued at \$50,000 and com-

mercial property valued at \$50,000 to pay 1 mill of taxes.

The numbers for:

- A typical quarter section (160 acres) of dry land, the total estimated tax is \$5.04, which is then divided by 160 acres to get \$.03 an acre.

- A typical quarter of grassland, the total estimated tax is \$1.44, or \$.01 per acre.

- A typical quarter of irrigated land, total estimated tax is \$12, \$.075 an acre.

- A residential dwelling valued at \$50,000 has a total estimated tax of \$5.75 for each mill.

- A commercial property valued at \$50,000 has a total estimated tax of \$12.50.

If the local option budget increase doesn't pass, taxes will still increase about 2.11 mills next year. That increase means taxpayers will pay:

- For a typical quarter-section (160 acres) of dry land, the total estimated

(See TAXES on Page 10A)

Workers collecting auction donations for annual telethon

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

Committee members are working to bring everything together for the Seeds of Hope Telethon on Saturday, Feb. 28, including collecting donations for both the live and silent auctions.

As of last Wednesday, only 16 items had been collected for the auction, with several of them coming from out of town.

The items include:

- A framed autographed picture called "Jayhawks on Parade" from Dr. Gary, Sarah, Karli and Kaine Fredrickson.

- A boneless rib eye roast cut and wrapped from Raye's Grocery,

- A jewelry case with vanilla plum products from the Washboard Salon.

- A Fort Hays State University Tiger shelf sitter from the university.

- Tickets to a race on June 5 from

Kansas Speedway.

- Tickets to a play from the Denver Center Theater Company.

- Folding lawn chair with carry bag from the Decatur County Farm Bureau.

- A Maverick pogo stick from High Plains Baptist Church.

- A professional strength whitening system from Dr. Fredrickson.

- "Sunlight on the Sappa" print by Anna Seeber Shaw from The Bank.

- Final session facial microdermabrasion from Oberlin Medical Arts.

- Fan package from the Miami Dolphins.

- A game day program autographed by wide receiver Joey Galoway from the Dallas Cowboys.

- One night bed and breakfast stay with dinner for two in the wine cellar dining room from the Claremont Inn in Stratton, Colo.

(See AUCTION on Page 10A)

County Democrats discuss party caucus

Nine members of the Decatur County Democratic party discussed the district caucus in Colby in March at a reorganizational meeting last Wednesday night.

Bob Strevey, a farmer in the Norcatara area, said Kansas has been sort of left out of the presidential process because the Legislature decided not to have a presidential primary and instead have a caucus system. Democrats have a caucus for people in the 40th Senatorial district, which is represented by Senator Stan Clark. It includes 18 counties.

The caucus will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, March 13, in Colby, said Mr. Strevey.

At the caucus, 10 delegates will be chosen to attend the congressional district caucus. At the congressional district caucus, five delegates will be chosen to go to the national convention, three men and two women.

The state convention will then be held on Saturday, April 24.

If the Democrats in the county decide to take part, he said, they will have a say in what happens. Mr. Strevey said it would be nice to have a good showing at the district caucus in Colby.

The group talked about supporting the presidential race. Judy Gaumer, county chairwoman, said she thought the party should put up as many signs as possible in the county. When Gov. Kathleen Sebelius ran, she said, they put up around 100 signs.

Terry Keahey said the signs make Democrats from outside the county feel welcome.

Gary Miller said he thought the party needed to work on getting people to run for jobs in the county. Mr. Strevey agreed, and said he thought the people should have a (See CAUCUSES on Page 10A)



Students create posters

WITH HER COWGIRL HAT ON, fourth grader Darian Bose (above) worked on a poster about Carlsbad Caverns on Thursday morning. She and some of her classmates were dressed in cowboy/cowgirl or prairie clothes to celebrate the birthday of Kansas on Jan. 29. Shay McChesney and Samantha Anderson (right) worked on a poster about Hawaiian volcanoes as part of their enrichment class.

— Photos by Kimberly Brandt



WRESTLING T-SHIRTS were hot off the press at the Northwest Kansas League tournament on Saturday. Rick Doeden of Custom Trophy and Engraving of Oberlin made them in any size you wanted. Story on Page 6A.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Snow gives area a little sip

At first forecasters said the area was going to get quite a bit of snow last weekend, but then they said the area would get a dusting. What Oberlin finally got was 1.3 inches of snow for the week, which means .10 of an inch of moisture.

Now forecasters are calling for four to eight inches of snow this week for the Tri-State area. The forecast called for the snow to start falling Monday, continue through today and end on Thursday.

Kansas State University Agronomist Brian Olson said any moisture the area gets will help the wheat crop. A good portion of the wheat did come up, he said, and there is some that is actually just starting to grow now. Mr. Olson said the wheat (See SNOW on Page 10A)

* Voters get chance to say yea, nay on tax item

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 district needs to know if the measure will pass. That way teachers can know if they have a job.
 If the school board waited until the August election, saving the cost of a special election, then they would have to assume that the vote is going to fail and cut teachers.
 "We are trying to keep as many people as possible in town," said Mr. Glodt.
 He said he doesn't know what will happen next year or if more cutbacks

might be required. Mr. Glodt said it depends on how many kids the district will lose and whether state aide goes up.
 Mr. Glodt said the school districts in St. Francis, Atwood, Hoxie and Oakley have all had to cut more than 10 teachers in the last few years. They have had experienced board clerks, superintendents and board members, and none of them saw it coming. Each of the districts had declining enrollment just like Oberlin, he said.

* Taxes will be higher next year, irregardless

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 tax is \$10.63, or \$.067 an acre.

- A typical quarter of grassland, the total estimated tax is \$3.03, for \$.02 per acre.
- A typical quarter of irrigated land, total estimated tax is \$25.32, or \$.16 an acre.

- A residential dwelling valued at \$50,000 has a total estimated tax increase of \$12.13.
- A commercial property valued at \$50,000 has a total estimated tax increase of \$26.37.
- If the vote passes, the total increase will be 9.5 mills. That increase means tax payers will pay:

- A typical quarter of dry land, total estimated tax is \$47.88, \$.30 an acre.
- A typical quarter of grassland, total estimated tax increase is \$13.68, \$.09 per acre.
- A typical quarter of irrigated land, total estimated tax is \$114, \$.71 an acre.

- A residential dwelling valued at \$50,000 has a total estimated tax increase of \$54.62.
- A commercial property valued at \$50,000 has a total estimated increase of \$118.75.
- The tax numbers were provided by County Appraiser Alan Hale.



WITH THE HELP of former owners Lee and Judy Ploussard, Jeanette Krizek prepared vases of fresh flowers in her newly purchased store, Flowers by Lee's, on Monday morning.
 — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Brandt

Flower shop changes hands; new owners plan to cross street

Flowers by Lee's, which has been in business in Oberlin since 1980, has been sold to Dave and Jeanette Krizek of Jennings by Lee and Judy Ploussard.
 The Krizeks, both graduates of Jennings High School, live near Jennings. They have a son, Clint, who is a freshman at Jennings High School. Mrs. Krizek, who will operate the business, took over on Monday.
 She said with Valentine's Day coming up, they plan to wait until the middle of February to move to a new location at 157 S. Penn. The Ploussards will continue to help in the store for a while, she said.
 "I am looking forward to serving the community with the same quality service and products that Lee and Judy provided," Mrs. Krizek said.
 The Ploussards started the business in 1980 in the basement of Aunt Martha's Parlor at 157 S. Penn, first with only silk florals, then adding fresh flowers the following year. Three years later, they moved the business to 152 S. Penn for a short time.
 "Art Dowling came in one day, threw the key on the desk and said, 'I'm going to California for six months. Here's the key. If you're interested in buying my building, take an inventory and open the front door.' And we've been here since," the Ploussards said.
 The couple said they hadn't planned to sell, but

they were impressed for two reasons when Mrs. Krizek asked if she could buy the business. First of all, they said, to know that the younger generation is interested in the future of Oberlin's survival, and second, knowing they will not be leaving two empty buildings on Main Street.
 "We feel that new blood, enthusiasm and new ideas are what keep things moving forward," they said. "The Krizeks, and also Marlin and Charlotte Bowen, who will continue to operate Cabin Antiques in the present building, pass those qualifications. That building has been sold to Richard and Anna Shaw.
 "Retirement is not in Lee Ploussard's vocabulary, but we plan to smell the roses instead of selling them, take a few more walks and visit the Pacific Northwest to see family and friends," said Mrs. Ploussard.
 Mr. Ploussard has been on Main Street in Oberlin since age 10 when he took a job sweeping sidewalks for Charley Stevenson at Stevenson's Drug Store. He later was promoted to soda jerk inside and some 61 years later, he's still on Main Street. His wife, Judy, opened Aunt Martha's in September 1977.
 The Ploussards operate an alternative health care business, Bionetics of Kansas, which they will continue at 308 N. York. They are associated with the top nutritional formulator and said they are excited about being a part of this company.

* Auction items needed

(Continued from Page 1A)
 • One-night stay for two from the Cottage-House in Council Grove.
 The committee is accepting donations, which will be auctioned off throughout the day. The money will go to 16 organizations in the county: Decatur County Stand Against Violence, AWANA, Kansans for Life, FROGS Summer Camp, Tripple Creek Riders, Decatur County Relay for Life, Decatur Area Theater Association, Oberlin Lions Club, Norcatat Pre-School, American Family Radio, Oberlin Girl Scouts, Norcatat City Library, Salvation Army, Decatur Area Cham-

ber of Commerce, Jennings Community Hall and Jennings City Library.
 The telethon will feature two new items this year, including a tribute to the late Royce Wilson, former television reporter and home show promoter, who died last year.
 The committee members also would like to honor active duty military men and women from the county.
 The idea, said committee member Kimberly Brandt, is to highlight one member each hour by either interviewing that person or a relative. The committee would also like

to show pictures of service personnel.
 Ms. Brandt said they aren't going to be able to do this without the help of people in the county. Those interested in getting their loved ones on the telethon should call her at 475-2206.
 The day will be full of talent, interviews with members of organizations receiving the money, a walk-a-thon, a chili cook off and lots of food.
 The telethon will start a 1 p.m. and run until 10 p.m. on local accessible channel 7 in Oberlin.

* Caucuses replace Kansas primary

(Continued from Page 1A)
 choice. Mr. Miller said it shouldn't make a difference if there is a D or R next to the candidate's name; voters' choices should be based on the person.
 Mr. Strevey said it is just a matter of talking to people to see if they are interested in running. He said it is

also important to get Democrats registered to vote.
 Mrs. Gaumer said it may be a good idea to suggest to the county clerk's office to have open registration set up in the smaller towns, not just in the courthouse.
 The party could send out welcome letters when people move to

town, said Mrs. Keahey, and ask them to vote in them, or it could be done at a personal visit.
 The group also discussed getting people out to vote on election day.
 The party elected Mr. Keahey as county chairman, Linda Schroer as vice chair, Peggy Groneweg as secretary and Mr. Miller as treasurer.

* Snow gives fields a needed drink

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 that is coming up now will have a decreased yield potential, but still might produce a crop.
 The area isn't looking at great wheat yields by any stretch of the imagination, said Mr. Olson. The crop likely won't be anywhere as

good as it was last year, but there is potential for some good yields. No one should write off the wheat just yet.
 The recent snow, although it didn't completely cover all the fields, will help as an insulating blanket, said Mr. Olson. If that little

bit of snow hadn't fallen, he added, the wheat crop wouldn't have any protection from the cold.
 This way the crop has some protection, and if the forecast is correct, it will have a lot more soon.

Budke Motors
 3 x 10 1/2
 oh/adv
 Ad sent to GDN

Most county offices up for grabs

Almost all Decatur County offices will be up for election in the primary Tuesday, Aug. 3, and the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 2.
 Jobs up for election include the magistrate judge, county attorney, county clerk, register of deeds, treasurer, sheriff and commissioner seats in Districts 2 and 3.
 The only seat not up is for commissioner district 1, which is held by Patricia Glenn.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said everyone who holds office now has picked up the information to file for the election, but no one has turned in a petition. She said the filing deadline is Thursday, June 10.
 To file for office, Republicans need 45 signatures and Democrats need 20. Those running for commissioner have a different petition requirement, but she said she hasn't heard back about what they need.

Prospective candidates can choose not to file a petition and pay either \$5 or 1 percent of the salary for their office.
 Other spots up for election are township treasurers and trustees.
 Mrs. Horn said the last day to register for the primary election is Monday, July 19. The last day to register for the general election is Monday, Oct. 18. On both days, the clerk's office will be open until 9 p.m.

City OKs sewer line extension for home

The Oberlin City Council approved a sewer line extension for a new home being built on the north end of Chautauqua Park on Thursday night.
 The city will pay for the up-front costs of the sewer line and the landowner, Everett Shuler, will pay the money back over the next five years with 5 percent interest.
 City Administrator Gary Shike said if someone taps into this sewer line while the landowner is paying the city back, they will assume a percentage of the debt.
 The sewer extension project will be privately constructed, said Mr. Shike, but the city will be putting in the manholes. The line will cut through public land, he said.
 Councilman Joe Stanley asked if there were any more buildable lots at the park. Mr. Shike said there could be some.
 The new house on the northeast

side of the park already has a sewer line going to it, but it may need a street also, said Mr. Shike.
 The council authorized Mr. Shike to sign the application forms needed for the State Revolving Fund loan for the council is applying for to assist with the waste water project.
 Mr. Shike said there will be a lot of signing and it would probably be easier for someone in the office to do it instead of tracking down the mayor each time.
 In other business, the council:
 • Heard that Mr. Shike met with a structural engineer from Miller and Associates to look at the vacant buildings downtown and he will be receiving a report.
 • Heard the price for the annual sewer cleaning has gone up. Mr. Shike said he would like to do some research before the city agrees to anything.
 • Talked briefly about the lagoon

system at Liberal, which uses waste water to create a lake for fishing. Councilman Jay Anderson suggested a few people from the city take a look at it.
 • Heard that Mr. Anderson, County Commissioner Doyle Brown and Economic Development Corp. Marketing Director Connie Grafel are sending out a letter to learn about tourism places in the area.
 • Heard an announcement from Mayor Ken Shobe, who said he was elected to represent the citizens and is open to comments, but he said he will not act on anonymous letters. He said people can talk with him or sign their letters.
 • Held a 20-minute closed session for non-elected personnel.

